

Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Meeting
Sheridan County EMS Bldg, Hoxie, Kansas
July 25, 2006

Debbie Hays, Chair called the July 25, 2006 meeting of the Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council to order at 10:05. Introductions were made.

The minutes of the May 16, 2006 meeting were presented as emailed previously. Corrections were called for. None identified. Pappy Lies motioned for minutes approved without correction. Steve Hirsch seconded. Minutes from the June 13, 2006 meeting were presented. With no corrections forthcoming, Pappy Lies moved minutes be approved and Steve Hirsch seconded.

Susan Belt, Kansas Highway Patrol, presented a PowerPoint on the Regional SHSP/LETPP Grants Application and Award Process. Each Council member was also given a packet of materials and PowerPoint handouts explaining the process. The Kansas Highway Patrol is the state administrative agency (SAA) for the grant. All grants management materials will be distributed directly to the Regional Council Chairperson and Fiscal Agent. The first project period is August 1, 2006 to May 31, 2008. Projects must meet the nine investments approved by DHS for Regional projects and must stay within the scope defined within the justification description. SHSP/LETPP funds are available for this project period. Of the 80% SHSP/LETPP moneys pass-through, 50% will go to the counties and 50% to regional groups. 10% of the SHSP must go to EMS. In FY 07 and beyond, the intent is for all "local" dollars to be distributed to the regional groups and the grant application process will be at least in part awarded on a competitive basis. The counties have the option of turning their local dollars to the Region this year. Approved project applications must be submitted with an approved work plan. Each region must choose a local unit to act as the "fiscal agent" for the region. Funds must be kept in an interest bearing account with interest returned. Funds must be spent within 90 days of draw down. Sample project paperwork was reviewed. Allowable and non-allowable expenditures were discussed. Work plans are submitted quarterly with the % of project completed included. It is recommended Regions not attempt more than four projects for this period.

Ida Kirmse presented Agricultural/Food Safety Project Proposal requests for consideration. Agriculture and food safety is a major part of Kansas economy. Food safety, message mapping, FAD training seminars, Kansas Food Emergency Response Plan Workshop, Inundation maps, Regional Food Safety Exercise, Anhydrous Ammonia Training for First Responders, Geolocation of facilities that store, sell or handle pesticides and fertilizers, Regional Food Safety Conference, and Regional Incident Management Team Development Workshop were proposed projects.

Discussion was held on the need for a grant fiscal agent. Phillips and Ellis counties were present and indicated their positions regarding the position. Following discussion, Steve Hirsch moved Ellis County be appointed fiscal agent. Pappy Lies provided second. Motion passed.

The grant committee is thus far composed of volunteers Pappy Lies and Gary Rogers. Steve Hirsch, Keith Haberer, and Robert McLemore volunteered to assist them. This committee will receive grant proposals and research them for presentation to the Council. Projects proposed to date have been incident management team development, emergency operation centers (mobile command vehicle or fixed county EOC development and minimum standardization), Department of Agriculture proposals, and Hays Fire has a proposal for development of collapsed structure search and rescue teams. Another suggestion from the floor was training exercises. The proposals need to be developed and the target capabilities matched.

Due to our extreme limited time frame for decisions, all proposals should be submitted to Toby Prine and the grant committee by August 1, 2006. It was suggested entities utilize the Agricultural/Food Safety Project Proposal as a template. Ida Kirmse stated she would send a blank template for the proposals if entities requested. It was also suggested entities design the proposals in scalable segments. All projects must have regional impact.

Due to time constraints, the remainder of the meeting agenda was postponed. The next meeting will be planned with a working lunch and is scheduled from 10:00 – 14:00 August 14, 2005. Meeting was adjourned with a meeting of the grant committee to immediately follow. Next meeting will be August 14, 2006 at the Sheridan County EMS building in Hoxie.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kaufman, Secretary